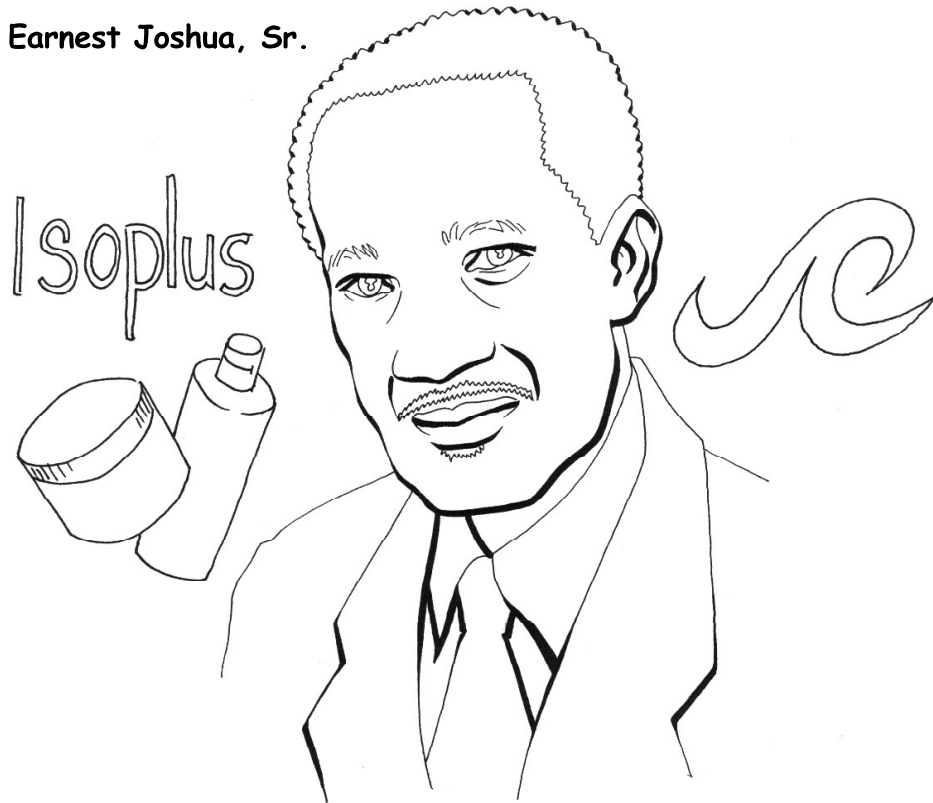
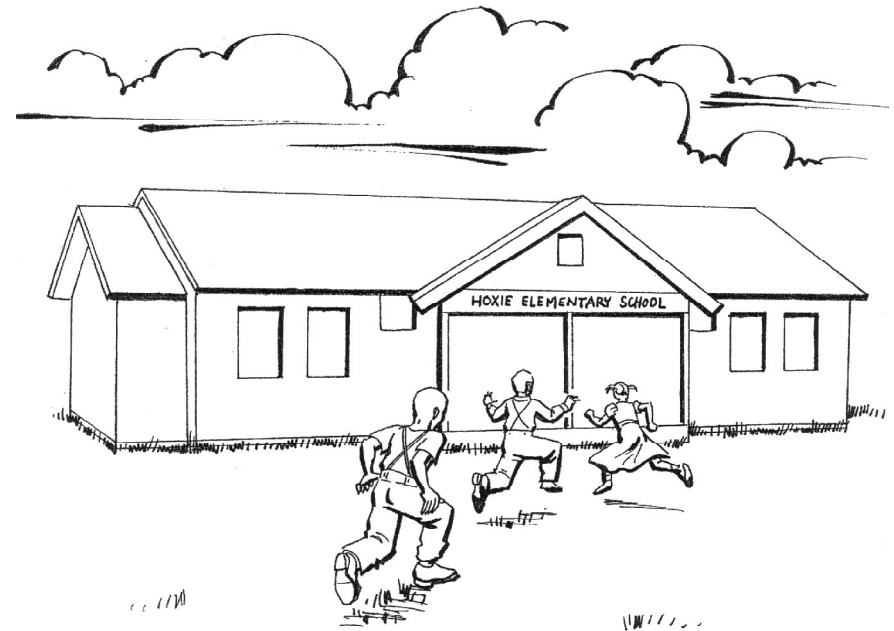


Earnest Joshua, Sr.



Mr. Ernest P. Joshua, Sr. was the founder and CEO of J.M. Products, Inc., a mentor and a philanthropist. In 1987 Mr. Joshua was the first businessman from Arkansas to be honored at the White House for his achievements by President Ronald Reagan and in 1994 was invited by President Bill Clinton to participate in the first U.S. Trade Mission to South Africa. His company was founded over 30 years ago and is one of the largest manufacturers of hair care products in America and the largest African American owned company in Arkansas. J.M. Products are made in Arkansas as well as Jamaica and West Africa.



## The Hoxie 21

In 1955, Hoxie School District became the first system in the Mississippi Delta that attempted to desegregate. The students, grades first through eighth, previously attended a one-room "colored school." After an article about the merge appeared in *Life Magazine*, tensions arose in the small town. Fayth Hill-Washington, a 1955 Hoxie student, established the Hill Foundation to increase the awareness of the historical event that happened in Hoxie. The Hoxie 21 are:

DonJean Barksdale  
Rosetta Barksdale  
Billy Joe Braxton  
Clark Braxton  
Terry Lee Braxton  
Robert Brown  
Freddie Sue Henderson

Fayth Genie Hill  
Wesley Hill  
Annie Bell Kelly  
J.B. Kelly  
Chester Kelly  
Willie Mae Kelly  
Paulette Riley

Billy Ruffin  
Louis Ruffin  
Mary Ruffin  
Sally Ann Ruffin  
Sharlene Ruffin  
Beverly Ruffin  
Ethel Tompkins

